

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM
THE LERAY MCALLISTER CRITICAL LAND CONSERVATION FUND, 2016

Complete, and have an authorized person **SIGN**, this *cover sheet*. (an authorized person is a person who has responsibility for committing funds provided by the applicant for use on this project.)

EVEN IF YOU SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION, as requested, WE STILL NEED ONE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE SENT BY US MAIL.

Review the information on your *pre-application form* and provide any new, corrected, or updated information by submitting a new pre-application form with this cover sheet. Submit the complete application to the address on the pre-application.

Refer to the Quality Growth Commission's *Eligibility Requirements for Grants and Evaluation Criteria* for information concerning the *Project Narrative* and documentation required to be submitted with this cover sheet.

See *Checklist for Application*. In order for your application to be complete, be sure everything on the checklist is included with this cover sheet.

1. Project Name Quanten Circle / T.B. Ranch

2. Applicant: must be a county, city, town, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Department of Agriculture, or a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (must submit letter from IRS)

☐ County ☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Natural Resources ☐ Agriculture ☒ 501(c)(3)

Name of Applicant BEAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY

3. Person authorized to submit this application on behalf of the above entity:

Name	<u>DAVE RAY FIELD</u>
Title	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>
Mailing Address	<u>155 NORTH 200 EAST</u>
	<u>LOGAN, UTAH 84321</u>
Phone Number	<u>435-757-9120</u>
FAX Number	<u>435-752-0734</u>
E-mail Address	<u>DRAYFIELD@GMAIL.COM</u>

4. I certify that I am authorized by the governing body (commission, council, board or other) of the above entity or by state statute to submit this application.

Signature:

Dave Rayfield

Date: 7/11/12



LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund Application Form, Due Friday, July 15, 2016

Including Eligibility Requirements and Evaluation Criteria for Grants

1. Project Name Quantum Circle / J.B. Ranch

2. Applicant: must be a county, city, town, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Department of Agriculture, or a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (must submit letter from IRS)

☐ County ☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Natural Resources ☐ Agriculture ☒ 501(c)(3)

Name of Applicant BEAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY

3. Person authorized to submit this application on behalf of the above entity:

Name	<u>DAVE RAYFIELD</u>
Title	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>
Mailing Address	<u>155 NORTH 200 EAST</u> <u>LOGAN, UTAH 84321</u>
Phone Number	<u>435-752 757-9120</u>
FAX Number	<u>435-752-0737</u>
E-mail Address	<u>DRAYFIELD@gmail.com</u>

I. Definitions

"Local entity" means a county, city, or town.

"Open land" means land that is preserved in or restored to a predominantly natural, open, and undeveloped condition; and used for:

- Wildlife habitat
- Cultural or recreational use
- Watershed protection
- Another use consistent with the preservation of the land in or restoration of the land to a predominantly natural, open, and undeveloped condition.

"Open land" does not include land whose predominant use is as a developed facility for active recreational activities, including baseball, tennis, soccer, golf, or other sporting or similar activity.

07/12/2016

To: Utah Quality Growth Commission

Project Narrative addressing the Evaluation Criteria requested for Quarter Circle/JB Ranch

This 25.5 acre parcel is located on the west side of Nibley, Utah and includes prime and State soils ground used for pasture and production today. Currently it is surrounded on the north and east by developed properties and on the south and west with prime agriculture production ground. Mr. Schiess has lived, owned and operated this ground his whole 76 years of life and would like to see it remain as agriculture ground in perpetuity.

The parcel contains a natural free flowing spring as well as canal water available from the eastern and southern ditches that run thru and adjacent to the property. Mr. Schiess flood irrigates the property for hay and livestock production.

The Quarter Circle Ranch was originally acquired in the early 1940's from the Cache Valley Elkhorn Ranch, one of Cache Valley's original pioneer ranches. Boyd Schiess, son of the original owners has deep sentimental feelings about his birthplace and this historic property.

According to NRCs soil surveys this area contains valuable and productive soils and has demonstrated productive crop and livestock production.

Nibley City supports the easement and abandoned a planned road through the property to accommodate conservation of the whole property. The Schiess's and Nibley city have agreed upon a public walking trail around property along the existing stream. This trail will connect to other public recreation assets of the community.

Nibley city is one of Cache valleys fastest growing community's. This area overlooks the valley and is in high demand. The city has recently stepped back from its development culture and has adopted the conservation and preservation philosophy. They want to maintain and improve the assets that made this small community so important to the people who live there.

In 2013 we applied for NRCS funds and were awarded ½ of the agreed upon conservation value. The contract was contingent upon obtaining 25% matching funds from the McAllister fund. After several extensions and failing to receive McAllister funding our contract expired. We were asked by NRCS to obtain matching funds and then reapply. Our goal is to receive LRMC funds and reapply for 2017 funding cycle.

If a conservation easement is put in place, a historical property would be preserved and stay productive. The public would be able to enjoy the trail and the open space in an area destined to be completely developed. The city would have a continuing trail section that connects city wide and Boyd would use the money he receives to improve the production capability of the property. This property meets the required criteria to obtain funds from LRMC. It has historical and farm production value. It has qualified for matching NRCS funding. The owner has agreed on a price that well below the value of the property.

I hope you consider funding this project in Cache Valley and preserving a great property.

Regards, Dave Rayfield, Bear River Land Conservancy, Project Chair

Boyd and Sheri Schiess
Quarter Circle JV Ranch
Located at 345 West 4000 South
Nibley, Utah 84321

Quarter Circle JV is the original cattle and horse brand used by Jack and Varua Schiess, the first owners of the 50 acre ranch located in Nibley, Utah. That brand is still used today. The land was purchased in the early 1940's and has historical value in that it was a part of the original Cache Valley Elkhorn Ranch. The ranch was purchased in 1975 by Boyd and Sheri Schiess, a son and daughter-in-law. This has always been a farm/ranch operation, with crops of alfalfa and grass hay, corn and grazing pasture land. We have a cow/calf operation along with a number of horses. Already three generations of children have been raised to enjoy the benefits of rural farm life, and we would like to see it passed down to the next generation, and for generations to come.

In order to make this happen, we are applying for protection of a 28 acre piece that is not only the best grazing and hay land we have, but is also highly subject to residential development. There are currently new homes and dead end streets on both the North and East boundaries, and land being sold for future home development on the West and South boundaries. It is the last piece of farmland left in the neighborhood not slated for development. As landowners, we are not interested in any kind of development. To protect this piece of rural farmland for the enjoyment of all we feel it needs to be placed in a Conservation Easement so it can remain open, green space forever.

This land has a breathtaking view of the Wellsville Mountains, it's gently sloping elevation makes it highly visible from all directions. The view also makes it highly desirable for development. All year round, many people in the neighborhood make the walk past the farm and land a part of their daily routine and comment to us how much they love watching the seasons change through the growth of the land. A future benefit to our city could be a walking trail incorporated along the South border of the property.

A tree-lined creek fed by a year-round spring defines the East border, and travels around to define the South border as well. Both are a ready source of water for further plantings of wildlife habitat and more trees. This would take place around the outside boundaries of the property. The 28 acres would always stay in agriculture as grazing and hay land.

For the past 10 years we have worked to replant wildlife protection habitat, trees and shrubs along with a variety of edible berries and food for the wildlife that frequent it. Wildlife visiting this property include deer, foxes, wild rabbits, and a large variety of songbirds, nesting hawks, eagles, falcons, sand hill cranes, wood doves, and migrating ducks and geese. The creek boundaries make this habitat, and the wildlife possible.

For the past 9 years our family has sponsored a horse riding therapy program for disabled and handicapped children. A highlight of the summer program is a trail-ride along the creek of this property, as well as hay rides through the field to see the cattle and horses.

We have worked with John Hardman of the USDA to improve fences and keep our cattle and horses out of the creek, except in certain designated drinking areas, and berms to control the runoff from the corrals on the high ground to keep the creek water clean.

We very much appreciate your time and effort in the consideration of this piece of property to be set aside as a Conservation Easement and insure it stays a beautiful agricultural setting for the enjoyment of many.

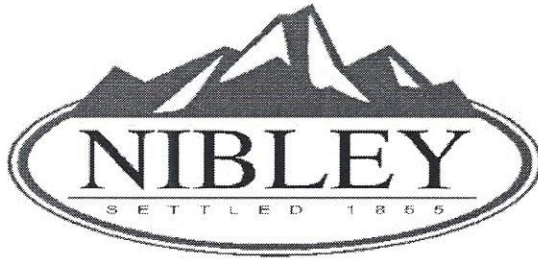

Boyd and Sheri Schiess

03-047

03-047



Mayor
Shaun Dustin



Council Members
Kathryn Beus
Bryan Hansen
Tim Ramirez
Larry Jacobsen
Tom Bernhardt

26 May 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for this opportunity to support Boyd Scheiss' application for funding to enable preservation of his Schiess Ranch property in Nibley, Utah.

Boyd and I have had our differences over the years, but when it comes to the things that are truly important, we understand each other very well. Boyd owns one of the important pieces of land in Nibley, a section that his family has farmed and preserved for decades. Just yesterday, I walked that land. I saw the water and the soil and the grass and the birds and the trees. It took me back to tooling around the fields and ditches of the Lucas Farm in American Fork or the Baumgartner orchard in Provo when I was a kid, places that are gone now to make room for houses and stores.

In Nibley, we talk a lot about heritage and agriculture, but development pressure is real and so are private property rights. When a man like Boyd is willing to forgo the big payday and commit to preserving a piece of our past like he is, I am proud to support that. As a City, we are working to set aside open space, to preserve waterways and corridors for agriculture, wildlife and movement of people but I need help. I am learning that there are some things that I can be stubborn about, but with land, once it develops, it's gone to us as a legacy and a heritage. The bottom line is that a home can be built in any number of places, but open ag land—that has to be preserved in big chunks, or it's really not preserved at all.

One of the tough things about getting public support for this type of land preservation is that everybody wants to preserve the other guy's property. It's my job to try to figure out how to pull everyone together to make the right things happen.

Boyd and I have been talking about this and trying to figure out how to pull it together for a while, along with Boyd's neighbor, Jim Johnson. We've put together a proposal that preserves the ground that gives the people of Nibley access via a perimeter trail easement that Boyd has committed to, and a cooperative maintenance agreement that the City will be responsible for. Our goal is to provide public access across the land, completing vital non-motorized corridors, without impacting Boyd's ability to manage the land.

I am also working to implement a right of way and heritage fund in the City that will provide a consistent source of funding for future projects like this. If there is a funding gap that we can help make up to make this happen, we are willing to make a financial commitment too but we would prefer to take that funding and leverage it with this project to purchase additional easements and open space and further our collective vision for a Cache Valley and a Utah where the important spaces are kept viable.

Thanks for your vision. Without your work, we would all be poorer. I really hope that you will fund this project, and I hope that we can work together to identify places and funding for more of this in the future. If there is any way that I can help you with your mission, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shaun Dustin, PE
Mayor

Mayor
Shaun Dustin



Council Members
Kathryn Beus
Bryan Hansen
Tim Ramirez
Larry Jacobsen
Tom Bernhardt

May 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Nibley is a well-planned community that encourages the preservation of open space and the rural heritage of Cache Valley. The mission of Nibley City is to make life better for its citizens by fostering community cooperation so residents, businesses, and government work together to develop the City in harmony with its natural environment, historical surroundings, and in accordance with the values and vision of the community as set forth in the General Plan.

The Schiess Ranch, located in Nibley, holds great historic value as one of the early established ranches in Cache Valley and is still a working ranch today. The ranch is pursuing a conservation easement for the protection of agricultural land. Nibley City supports the ranch in these efforts. As a demonstration of that support, the City Council several years ago took formal action to eliminate a planned section of road on the Nibley Master Road Plan to accommodate the proposed agricultural easement.

As growth accelerates in Cache County, development pressure continues to drive zoning changes to agricultural properties. We believe the soil quality, accessible water, and location within the community make this ranch among the best-suited agricultural properties in the state of Utah.

Because of the water features on this parcel, habitat has been created that supports wildlife. The ranch also allows local citizens to maintain their connection to rural Utah and agriculture, which aligns with statements made in the Nibley City General Plan. A planned walking trail around the ranch would further facilitate citizen interaction with the open space and cultural heritage of the ranch.

The City of Nibley offers this letter of support for efforts made in the preservation of the Schiess Ranch. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Zook
City Manager

NIBLEY BLACKSMITH FORK IRRIGATION CO.

August 20, 2012

To whom it may Concern:

As secretary for the Nibley Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Co., Mr. Boyd Schiess has asked me to write a letter of support for putting his land into the Conservation Reserve Program. Much of the land around the Nibley City area is under pressure for development. As a canal company, it has sometimes been hard to keep the canal system intact, as developers want to move ditches and canals so that they can get one more lot in their development. The canal system that was put into place over one hundred years ago has been working great. It amazes me that the early settlers without today's technology made a system that works without problems. Some times when engineers today try to interfere and change the design, it doesn't work as well as when first laid out.

A main trunk of the present canal system surrounds Mr. Schiess' ranch property on the East and on the South. This portion of the canal system we call the South Fork. It supplies water for much of the land to the West of Nibley and to the north, eventually crossing Highway 89-91 in to the College Ward area.

I applaud Mr. Schiess for his vision wanting to keep his property open and without development. As past developments have dissected our canal system, it makes it easier to keep the integrity of the canal system functioning without the pressures of houses and the liability that it brings.

Sincerely,



Jay R. Tuddenham
Secretary and board member for canal

Post-it® Fax Note 7671

Date 9/10/09	# of pages 1
To Dave Rayfield	From Jay Baker
Co./Dept.	Co.
Phone #	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #

Cache County LESA

Applicant: Boyd Schiess
Acres: 30.7

Date: 6/26/09

Land Evaluation

		Points From GIS	LESA Weight	LESA Points
Soil Productivity Index (SPI)	Weighted Average: →	70.46	0.22	15.50
Land Capability Index (LCI)	Weighted Average: →	73.79	0.21	15.50

Site Assessment

SA-1 Suitability For Commercial Farming

SA-1(a) Size of parcel

	Acres	Divided by	Points
a) irrigated	30.7	1.6	19
b) non-irrigated cropland	0	4.8	0
c) non-irrigated pasture or range	0	9.6	0
d) other lands	0		0

TOTAL 19.19

Max of 100 →

19.19

0.14

2.69

SA-1(b) Commercial Activity (Use only one)

Animal Units:	26	max of 100 →	8	0.08	0.64
Gross Receipts:	4500	points from table →	2	0.08	0.16

SA-2 Pressure From Non-Agriculture Development

SA-2(a) Proximity to Protected Lands

Distance to nearest protected land	Details	Points →	50	0.08	4.00
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SA-2(b) Density of Housing Development

Housing density within 1/4 mile	Details	Points →	50	0.05	2.50
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SA-2(c) Proximity to Sewer

Distance to nearest sewer area	Details	Points →	0	0.05	0.00
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SA-3 Non-Agricultural Resources

SA-3(a) Natural Resource Lands

Factors	Acres	Points			
0	0	0			
1	14	14			
2	16	32			
3	0	0			
4	0	0			
5	0	0			
Adjacent	0	0	Max of 50		
Total	46		Max of 100 →	46	0.09 4.14

SA-3(b) Rural Visual Landscape

Factors	Points				
Road Corridors	0				
Benchmark Protection	0				
Viewshed Protection	50				
Total	50	Max of 100 →	50	0.08	4.00

Total LESA Score	49
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Mayor
Gerald K. Knight



Council Members
Carrie Cook
Bryan Hansen
Larry E. Jacobsen
Thayne Mickelson
Shawn B Platt

June 19, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

Nibley is a well-planned community that encourages the preservation of open space and the rural heritage of Cache Valley. The mission of Nibley City is to make life better for its citizens by fostering community cooperation so residents, businesses, and government work together to develop the City in harmony with its natural environment, historical surroundings, and in accordance with the values and vision of the community as set forth in the General Plan.

The Schiess Ranch, located in Nibley, Utah, is very interested in a conservation easement for the protection of agricultural land. Nibley City supports the ranch in their efforts. The city council has taken formal action to eliminate a section of road on the master plan to accommodate the proposed agricultural easement.

As growth accelerates in Cache County, development pressure continues to drive zoning changes to agricultural properties. The soil quality, accessible water, and placement within the community make this among the best-suited agricultural properties in the state of Utah.

This property has prime agricultural production soil properties. Because of the many existing and planned water features on this parcel, wildlife habitat thrives. The ranch allows local citizens to maintain their connection to rural Utah and agriculture, which aligns with statements made in the Nibley City General Plan. The Schiess Ranch holds great historic value as one of the early established ranches in Cache Valley and is still a working ranch today.

The City of Nibley offers this letter of support for efforts made in the preservation of the Schiess Ranch.

Sincerely,

Gerald K. Knight
Mayor

Nibley City
455 West 3200 South
Nibley, Utah 84321
(435) 752-0431 Fax: (435) 753-1510
www.nibleycity.com

RESOLUTION 09-11

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 28 ACRES OF BOYD SCHIESS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, Mr. Boyd Schiess has expressed an interest in placing a conservation easement on 28 acres of property along the north side and adjacent to 4000 South between about 300 West and 640 West; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schiess has applied to the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund as administered by the Utah Quality Growth Commission for a grant to assist in the sale of the conservation easement and may apply to other agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture; and

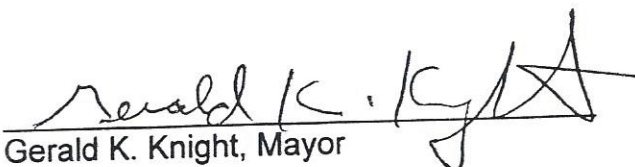
WHEREAS, Nibley City Council is generally in favor of such easements as a way of preserving agricultural land and productive open space; and

WHEREAS, Nibley City is a community that has experienced growth at rates faster than any other city in Cache County and has worked to provide for the planning and preservation of open space and the rural environment as a component of growth.

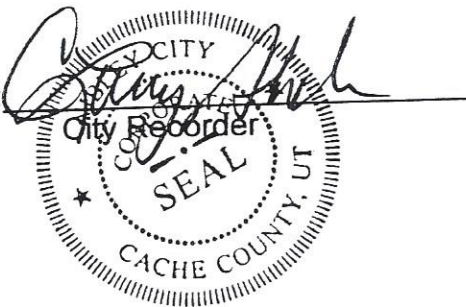
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NIBLEY CITY COUNCIL, NIBLEY, UTAH, THAT:

1. The Council wholeheartedly supports and encourages the conservation easement for the Schiess property.
2. The Nibley City Council believes that open space can be an integral part of our community and encourages the Utah Quality Growth Commission to approve the request for funding from Mr. Schiess.

PASSED BY THE NIBLEY CITY COUNCIL THIS 17th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2009.


Gerald K. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:



ORDINANCE 09-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MASTER ROAD PLAN ELIMINATING THE PLANNED ROAD OF 450 WEST SOUTH OF 3850 SOUTH TO 4000 SOUTH

WHEREAS, Mr. Boyd Schiess has requested that the Nibley City Master Road Plan be amended to eliminate the planned extension of 450 West south of 3850 South to 4000 South, and

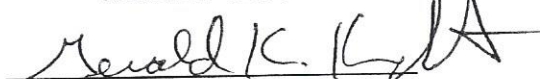
WHEREAS, a public hearing has been advertized to receive comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE NIBLEY CITY COUNCIL, NIBLEY, UTAH, THAT:

1. The Master Road Plan for Nibley City shall be amended to delete all of that section of the proposed planned 450 West road that lies south of 3850 South to 4000 South.
2. Maps and planning documents showing that section of road as a planned road shall be amended to eliminate the afore described section of road.
3. Nibley City shall prepare an alternative master plan to mitigate the deletion of this road.

PASSED BY THE NIBLEY CITY COUNCIL THIS 17th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2009.

NIBLEY CITY


Gerald K. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST: 



CERTIFICATE OF POSTING ORDINANCE

I, C. Larry Anhder the duly appointed and acting City Recorder for the City Of Nibley, Utah, hereby certify that copies of the foregoing ordinance were posted at three public places within the City this _____ day of _____, 2009.

The public places are:

1. Bulletin Board at City Hall 625 West 3200 South
2. The old City Building at the Nibley City Park, 246 West 3200 South
3. Maverik 3090 S Main

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2009

City Recorder

NOTICE OF GRANT AND AGREEMENT AWARD

1. Award Identifying Number 73-8D43-13-03		2. Amendment No.		3. Award/Project Period 09/01/2013 to 09/30/2015		4. Type of Award Instrument Cooperative	
5. Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (Name and Address) NRCS-Utah 125 South State Street, Room 4010 Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100				6. Recipient Organization: (Name and Address) Bear River Land Conservancy 195 North 200 East, PO Box 4565 Logan, UT 84323-4565			
				DUNS: 038967069		EIN: 27-4698179	
7. NRCS Program Contact: Pedro Ramos		8. NRCS Administrative Contact: Jeff Williams		9. Recipient Program Contact: Dave Rayfield		10. Recipient Administrative Contact: Dave Rayfield	
11. CFDA Number 10-913		12. Authority Section 2401 of FCEA of 2008		13. Type of Action Agreement		14. Project Director Dave Rayfield	

15. Project Title/Description:
In cooperation with Schiess NEST 738D431301CM1

16. Entity Type: ☐ Profit ☒ Nonprofit ☐ Higher Education ☐ Federal ☐ State/Local ☐ Indian/Native American

Other

17. Select Funding Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Federal
Original Funds Total:	0	
Additional Funds Total:	127,500	
Grand Total:	127,500	

18. Accounting and Appropriation Data

Financial Code	Amount	Fiscal Year	Treasury Symbol
13NRF	127,500	2013	1321004

19. APPROVED BUDGET

Personnel	\$	Fringe Benefits	\$
Travel	\$	Equipment	\$
Supplies	\$	Contractual	\$ 127,500
Construction	\$	Other	\$
Total Direct Cost\	\$	Total Indirect Cost	\$
		Total Non-Federal Funds	\$
		Total Federal Funds Awarded	\$ 127,500
		Total Approved Budget	\$ 127,500

This agreement is subject to applicable USDA NRCS statutory provisions and Financial Assistance Regulations. In accepting this award or amendment and any payments made pursuant thereto, the undersigned represents that he or she is duly authorized to act on behalf of the awardee organization, agrees that the award is subject to the applicable provisions of this agreement (and all attachments), and agrees that acceptance of any payments constitutes an agreement by the payee that the amounts, if any found by NRCS to have been overpaid, will be refunded or credited in full to NRCS.

(Continuation)

NOTICE OF GRANT AND AGREEMENT AWARD

Award Identifying Number 73-8D43-13-03	Amendment No.	Award/Project Period 09/01/2013 to 09/30/2015	Type of Award Instrument Cooperative
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Name and Title of Authorized Government Representative David Brown, State Conservationist	Signature	Date
Name and Title of Authorized Recipient Representative Dave Ray Field, Chair Barn River Land Conservancy	Signature <i>Dave Ray Field</i>	Date 9/9/13

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The above statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 522a).

Mayor
Gerald K. Knight



Council Members
Carrie Cook
Bryan Hansen
Larry E. Jacobsen
Thayne Mickelson
Shawn B Platt

June 19, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

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As growth accelerates in Cache County, development pressure continues to drive zoning changes to agricultural properties. The soil quality, accessible water, and placement within the community make this among the best-suited agricultural properties in the state of Utah.

This property has prime agricultural production soil properties. Because of the many existing and planned water features on this parcel, wildlife habitat thrives. The ranch allows local citizens to maintain their connection to rural Utah and agriculture, which aligns with statements made in the Nibley City General Plan. The Schiess Ranch holds great historic value as one of the early established ranches in Cache Valley and is still a working ranch today.

The City of Nibley offers this letter of support for efforts made in the preservation of the Schiess Ranch.

Sincerely,

Gerald K. Knight
Mayor

Nibley City
455 West 3200 South
Nibley, Utah 84321
(435) 752-0431 Fax: (435) 753-1510
www.nibleycity.com



United States Department of Agriculture

February 12, 2015

RE: Request for Amendment to FRPP Agreement: 73-8D43-13-03

Bear River Land Conservancy
195 North 200 East, PO Box 4565
Logan, UT 84323-4565

Dear Mr. Rayfield,

Your request for a amendment to the Schiess FRPP agreement received on January 28, 2015 has been reviewed by Jeff Williams, Easement Specialist and submitted to me for a no-cost extension through September 30, 2015.

The justification stated for the extension was to work with local legislators and other conservation groups to reinstitute State funding for the LeRay McAllister Conservation Fund (LMCF). Your request further pointed out that this extension is necessary due to the anticipated complex process that will be required to obtain the funds once this program has been reconstituted. In addition, your letter made it clear that without this source of matching funds the purchase of the conservation easement on Mr. Schiess's 25.5 acres, valued at \$255,000 would be unlikely to be completed.

Given the tenuous nature of the LMCF funding, the likely timeline for receiving funds should they be authorized by the Legislature, and the need to close on the conservation easement by the end of September 2015, I cannot approve your request for this amendment.

In the future, when you have secured the necessary matching funds, I do encourage you to apply the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program. This will allow you craft a viable partnership with LMCF or other interested partner that can play an active role in bringing funds to the table, work with local and state office staff members to answer any questions you may have about the ALE program and requirements, and submit a competitive application for funding and moving towards the mutual goals and objectives for the Bear River Land Conservancy and NRCS.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me or Jeff Williams, Easement Specialist a call at jeff.williams@ut.usda.gov, 801-524-4254.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

DAVID C. BROWN
State Conservationist